

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION PA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /034 W  
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R 031605Z NOV 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO STATE WASHDC 3033  
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemptions:

~~Declassify~~ ☐ In Part ☒ In Full **DECLINTROL**

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 8258

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OTRA (MOSES, HERMAN H.) SHUM, AR  
SUBJECT: VISIT OF JEWISH WAR VETERANS (JWV)

REF: STATE 250598

MR. HERMAN MOSES AND MR. AINSLEE FERDIE OF THE JEWISH WAR VETERANS DISCUSSED THE PANAMA CANAL, SOUTH AMERICAN HEMISPHERIC DEFENSE AND TROUBLED U.S-ARGENTINE BILATERAL RELATIONS DURING A FOUR DAY VISIT TO ARGENTINA WHICH ENDED NOVEMBER 2. BESIDES BRIEFINGS WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS, THEY SPOKE WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS, ARGENTINE JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS AND OFFICIALS OF THE ARGENTINE SUPREME COURT. IN GENERAL THEY HEARD THAT ARGENTINA IS PLEASED THAT THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY IS SIGNED, PARTICULARLY AS IT GIVES GOA AN ARGUMENT IN ITS POSITION THAT GREAT BRITAIN SHOULD END ITS COLONIAL PRESENCE IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. OTHERWISE, ARGENTINA IS NOT TERRIBLY INTERESTED IN THE CANAL AND CONGRESSIONAL RATIFICATION OR REJECTION SHOULD NOT AFFECT NORMAL BILATERAL RELATIONS. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JEWISH ORGANIZATION DAIA REITERATED TO THE VISITORS THAT ANTI-SEMITISM IS NOT A GOVERNMENT POLICY AND THAT ARGENTINE JEWS WOULD PREFER TO HANDLE MANIFESTATIONS OF ANTI-

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SEMITISM LOCALLY, WITHOUT POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS INTERFERENCE AND

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PRESSURE FROM U.S. JEWS. (EMBASSY COMMENT: THE DAIA, WHICH REPRESENTS THE CAUTIOUS AND CONSERVATIVE VIEWS OF THE LEADERSHIP OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, IS GENERALLY VERY DISCREET WHEN TALKING TO VISITING AMERICAN JEWS. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS, HOWEVER, THAT MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY ARE DISTURBED BY WHAT THEY CONSIDER THE DAIA'S LAME AND INEFFECTIVE POSITION ON BEHALF OF JEWISH POLITICAL VICTIMS AND RECOGNIZE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF AMERICAN JEWISH PRESSURE ON INDIVIDUAL JEWISH HUMAN RIGHTS CASES.) MR. MOSES AND MR. FERDIE STRESSED IN ALL THEIR DISCUSSIONS THAT THEY WERE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE COOLING OF U.S.-ARGENTINE RELATIONS, THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED SOVIET INFLUENCE IN LATIN AMERICA AS WITNESSED IN SOVIET ARMS SALES TO PERU AND IN PUNITIVE U.S. RESTRICTIONS ON SALES OF SPARE PARTS TO ARGENTINA. MR. FERDIE ALSO NOTED THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC IS CONCERNED MAINLY ABOUT REPORTS OF DISAPPEARANCES, AND POLICE AND MILITARY BRUTALITY OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN ARGENTINA. HE TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE JWV MAY DECIDE TO TAKE A PUBLIC SC ND ON THE ARGENTINE SITUATION AND U.S.-ARGENTINE RELATIONS AFTER DISCUSSIONS IN THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD IN WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 4 AND 5.  
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